

## **Parks Advisory Committee**

**April 22, 2009**

**6:30 PM**

**Minutes**

**Call to order:** Mr. Deeds called the meeting to order at 6:33pm

**Roll Call:**

	Peters	Card	Parker	Abbott
Boumis	Luehrs	Bolin	Byrd	Donahue
Baltzer	Bumpus	Bender	Paini	Toledo
Peoples	Ebert			

- Mrs. Turner was absent.

Also in Attendance:

Ms. Osborn (Finance Director), Mr. Strayer (Development Director), Mayor Ebert, Mr. Deeds, Ms. Nack (Vice-Chair of CWJRD), Ms. Eisnaugle (Phys Ed teacher Indian Trail) and Jack Nicely (teacher at CWS)

### **Mayor's Opening Remarks**

Mayor Ebert thanked everyone for coming and turned it over to Mr. Paini to introduce Mr. Dave Wharton, from New Albany/Plain Local Joint Parks District.

### **New Items for Discussion**

#### **09-01 Dave Wharton of the New Albany Plain Local Joint Parks District**

Mr. Wharton has been the Director of New Albany Parks for 8 years. He has a Master's Degree in Sports Management from OSU and was an Olympic silver medalist in the '88.

In 1999, the Joint Recreation District was formed through an agreement between school district, the township and the Village of New Albany under ORC section 755.14C. This allowed them to go out to the ballot for funding as a taxing authority. There was a Board of Trustees of 3 people; one representative from each entity. The athletic trainer at the high school was hired part time and did that for one year until they secured a permanent .75 milage levy for operation and construction in 2000.

During that first year, there were various sports leagues already formed, but did not have any land. This was a source of frustration for the Rec. Department, so they agreed to lease land from the Village of New Albany for 15 years for \$1. That would allow them time to see if they could get this off the ground and running and if it didn't work, the land would just revert back to the Village at the end of the lease. With that, they secured a loan for \$280,000 to build 4 softball fields and were donated land for 3 ½ soccer fields.

Once the milage levy came through, that funding would allow them to have a centralized home base and it was getting exciting for all the entities involved. They used the levy money for building and they were really gathering steam. It soon became apparent that they needed more. They went back to the voters in February 2003 for a bond issue of \$6million and passed it with no problem. Local developers donated land and that money was able to be used primarily for development instead of land acquisition. In November 2004, they went back for another bond to further expand their park. This time it passed with an even bigger margin, showing that the public really liked the improvements that were being made and were willing to back them.

They currently have a little over 200 acres. 170 acres are developed for basic athletic turf and are used for lacrosse and soccer, baseball, t-ball, softball, football, adult soccer, co-ed adult softball and men's over 30 basketball leagues. Staff is still relatively small. All landscaping is outsourced. They have come from 70 acres with 30 developed to 200 acres.

There is one position within the Joint Recreation Department called the Sports Coordinator. There is a fee assessed across the board and the leagues have use of this person in the organization of their independent leagues. Each league has their own Board, rules, etc... but this way, when they are coordinating the use of facilities, there are no conflicts due to lack of communication.

It was opened to Q & A at this point from the Committee.

**09-02            Parks and their Amenities Owned by the Village of Canal Winchester and in the area    -Matt Peoples**

Mr. Peoples presented a power point presentation showing all the parks and their amenities that are in the Village of Canal Winchester and surrounding areas. See attached.

**Oliver Winchester Park**- in the City of Cols. and Canal schools

**Busey Road** – future passive park to be developed by Violet Township

**IRO Post office** – 2 acre undeveloped land; possible future pocket park

**Gender/Groveport** - possible future passive park with trails. Grant funding fell through.

**Hanners Park** – baseball fields, concessions stands, parking lot, possible skate park. 50 year lease on land.

**Guiler Park** - playground, shelter house, basketball court, amphitheatre

**Swimming Pool** – zero depth entry pool, tot pool, competition pool, parking and concessions

**Stradley Park** – fountain, pergola, benches, large green space in the rear to be left undeveloped.

**Community Center** – 5000 sq foot facility, kitchen, senior programming on daily basis.

**Walnut Creek Park/ George Bareis Preserve** – 76 acres, much in the flood way, mini-soccer field, Future: Frisbee golf course, restrooms, concessions, tennis courts, amphitheatre and playground.

**Westchester Park** – playground, future fitness trail, shelter houses, parking lot

**James H. Kelley Preserve** – passive walking trails, creek access, covered bridge; future gazebo/shelter house and trail signs.

**Chestnut Ridge Park** – not in the Village, passive park with trails, pond, fishing.

**Slate Run Park** – very passive use, some playground facilities, shelter houses, Historical farm, horse riding trails.

It was opened to questions from the Committee at this time.

Residents asked about the timeline and budget available for adding the tennis courts within the Walnut Creek Park. It was stated that there is no timeline or budget for them at this time.

The estimate is it would cost approximately \$200,000 for 6 courts without lights. The USTA has a matching grant that is available. We actually were awarded the grant to match any funds raised toward the repair of the high school courts and there wasn't any money available at that time to use toward the grant, so the opportunity slipped away. There is another round of grants in June and then another in 2010, should the money come available. This is a source of great frustration for many residents. We have a high school tennis team that plays all away matches and has to practice in Groveport High School and Scarborough Tennis Club. They have to pay \$10 fee for *every* practice and they are willing to do that. That shows a strong interest in and dedication to the sport. There is a quick start tennis program that has 15 kids that use the parking lot of Indian Trail.

Wal-mart has earmarked money toward the building of tennis courts. Joyce Boyer has a small amount of money, approx \$9000, in an account that is earmarked for tennis courts. Home Depot gave Parks and Recreation \$2500 and it was turned over for tennis courts. 5/3 Bank has stated that they will donate money if we can show that we are actually going to build something. Further discussion ensued.

### **Other Business:**

Mr. Deeds stated that committee members should think about what areas of parks could be potential locations for new amenities and what areas of the village need a park.

Committee members should look at the results from the resident surveys and see what the community is wanting as far as parks and rec.

The goal for next meeting is to look at what green space we already have, what we would like to have and what we would like to see on those.

Mr. Gary Bumpus stated that he is concerned that this is turning into a "Recreation Advisory committee" instead of a "Parks Advisory Committee".

Mayor Ebert stated that we are actively looking for multi-use parks within the Village of Canal Winchester.

It was decided that the Committee members would like to have available to them:

- A copy of the power point presentation on the park land and amenities and the park master plan.
- A one page map that Dick Miller has that shows all the park land
- A map that shows the school district boundaries
- Something that shows the Village's ultimate growth boundaries.
- Information on how parks are donated from developers.

**Next Meeting will be Wednesday, May 27, 2009 at 6:30 PM** We will look at where we spend the money that is budgeted for Parks and we will be presented with information on how our CWJRD is set up.

Ms. Boumis moved that the committee support the Metro Parks levy and send out a letter to the media. Dr. Bender seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Motion carried with all ayes.

Mr. Paini moved to adjourn this meeting of the Parks Advisory Committee and was seconded by Ms. Parker. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 P.M.

**VOTE:** Motion carried with all ayes.